

LINE ENGRAVED CATALOGUE – PART 1

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After an inordinately long gestation period and a couple of ‘false starts’, the first part of the G.B. Line Engraved Catalogue is now complete. Although lists of perfin dies found on the Line Engraved stamps of Queen Victoria go back to as early as 1933, this particular list was started in 1988 as a survey by the late Harry Skinner and myself.

The complete work will consist of 3 parts. Part I covers the letters A-I, along with two detailed studies of the early dies of the ‘Great Western Railway’, and those of ‘I & R Morley’. Part II will detail the rest of the alphabet (J-Z, Designs and Numbers), and Part III will contain an Introduction plus colour plates. Also in Part III will be sections devoted to the ‘Missing Pin Plate Studies’ and ‘Company Biographies’ championed by Maurice Harp. The work is dedicated to the memory of Harry Skinner and his passion for perfins, in particular the Line Engraved issues of Queen Victoria.

The current status (December 2006) of G.B. Perfins on the Line Engraved issues of Queen Victoria is as follows.

	½d	1d	1½d	2d	Overall
Diff Dies	316	1,207	194	301	1,287
DDF	661	19,436	222	445	---

Part I contains details of 591 different dies, representing almost 46% of the 1,287 different dies known on LE issues. In passing, there are now 55 ‘Full Houses’, i.e. dies on which all four values have been reported.

Once Part II is published and collectors start reporting their new plates (and even new dies), I expect the total of different 1d plates to exceed 20,000. If I’d have known the enormity of the task of collecting an example of each plate on each die, I probably wouldn’t have started!

As always with new catalogues, please wait for Jeff Turnbull’s announcement in the Bulletin regarding price and availability.